



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
HARRIET BERNICK
Telephone: (602) 514-7736
Pager: (602) 356-0004

FATHER PLEADS GUILTY IN FATAL BEATING OF TWO WEEK-OLD INFANT

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on December 5, 2003, Jacob Miera, DOB 10/24/1979, of Kayenta, Arizona, pled guilty to Second Degree Murder in the death of his two week-old daughter, in federal district court in Phoenix, Arizona.

Jacob Miera, had been charged with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1111, Second Degree Murder, in the beating death of his infant daughter. At the plea hearing before Judge David Campbell, Miera admitted to killing his daughter at his home in Kayenta on April 29, 2003, by causing blunt force trauma to her body. The two week-old infant's injuries included more than twelve separate rib fractures, a spiral fracture of her left arm, a fracture of her right clavicle, internal injuries to her lungs and kidney, contusions and abrasions of her scalp and face, and severe bruising of her torso, including bruising indicative of fingertip marks. When first interviewed by law enforcement, Miera's original statement had been that he had tripped on a chair and accidentally fallen upon the child.

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A conviction for Second Degree Murder carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$ 250,000.00 fine, or both.

Sentencing is set before Judge David Campbell on February 20, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Navajo Nation Department of Law Enforcement Services and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-549-PCT-DGC
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